

CLAIMS

1. An information processing apparatus for transmitting content to another apparatus via a network, said information processing apparatus comprising:

an encryption unit operable to encrypt the content;

an authentication unit operable to perform an authentication procedure with the another apparatus when the another apparatus requests permission to receive the encrypted content, said authentication procedure providing an authentication result;

a transmitter operable to transmit a decryption key for decrypting the encrypted content to the another apparatus based on said authentication result;

a first obtaining unit operable to obtain identification information of the another apparatus based on said authentication result;

a first counting unit operable to count a total number of units desiring to receive the encrypted content based on said identification information;

a storage unit operable to store said identification information of the another apparatus; and

a controller operable to control a total number of units approved to receive the encrypted content based on said total number of units desiring to receive the encrypted content.

2. An information processing apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising:

a second obtaining unit operable to obtain a number of additional units desiring to receive the encrypted content from the another apparatus based on said authentication result; and

a second counting unit operable to count a total number of units of the another apparatus desiring to receive

the encrypted content based on said number of additional units.

3. An information processing apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising:

an information updating unit operable to delete said identification information stored in said storage unit and to reset said total number of units approved to receive the encrypted content when said decryption key is changed.

4. A method for transmitting content from an information processing apparatus to another apparatus via a network, said method comprising:

encrypting the content;

performing an authentication procedure with the another apparatus when the another apparatus requests permission to receive the encrypted content, said authentication procedure producing an authentication result;

transmitting a decryption key for decrypting the encrypted content to the another apparatus based on said authentication result;

obtaining identification information of the another apparatus based on said authentication result;

counting a total number of units desiring to receive the encrypted content based on said identification information;

storing said identification information of the another apparatus; and

controlling a total number of units approved to receive the encrypted content based on said total number of units desiring to receive the encrypted content.

5. A recording medium having recorded thereon a program for transmitting content from an information processing apparatus to another apparatus via a network, said program comprising:

encrypting the content;

performing an authentication procedure with the another apparatus when the another apparatus requests permission to receive the encrypted content, said authentication procedure producing an authentication result;

transmitting a decryption key for decrypting the encrypted content to the another apparatus based on said authentication result;

obtaining identification information of the another apparatus based on said authentication result;

counting a total number of units desiring to receive the encrypted content based on said identification information;

storing said identification information of the another apparatus; and

controlling a total number of units approved to receive the encrypted content based on said total number of units desiring to receive the encrypted content.

6. An information processing apparatus for receiving content from a first apparatus via a first network, said information processing apparatus comprising:

a first transmitter operable to transmit to the first apparatus a request for permission to receive the content;

a first authentication unit operable to perform a first authentication procedure with the first apparatus, said first authentication procedure producing a first authentication result;

a receiver operable to receive from the first apparatus a first decryption key for decrypting the content based on said first authentication result;

a second transmitter operable to transmit the content received from the first apparatus to a second apparatus via a second network;

a second authentication unit operable to perform a second authentication procedure with said second apparatus when a request for permission to receive the content is made from said second apparatus, said second authentication procedure producing a second authentication result;

a third transmitter operable to transmit a second decryption key to said second apparatus based on said second authentication result;

a first obtaining unit operable to obtain identification information of said second apparatus based on said second authentication result;

a first counting unit operable to count a number of units desiring to receive the content based on said identification information;

a storage unit operable to store said identification information of said second apparatus; and

a controller operable to control a number of units approved to receive the content based on said number of units desiring to receive the content.

7. An information processing apparatus according to Claim 6, further comprising:

a decryption unit operable to decrypt the content; and

an encryption unit operable to encrypt the content decrypted by said decryption unit.

8. An information processing apparatus according to Claim 6, further comprising:

a fourth transmitter operable to transmit said number of units desiring to receive the content to the first apparatus based on said first authentication result;

a second obtaining unit operable to obtain a number of additional units desiring to receive the content from said second apparatus based on said second authentication result; and

a second counting unit operable to count a total number of units of said second apparatus desiring to receive the content based on said number of additional units.

9. An information processing apparatus according to Claim 6, further comprising:

an information updating unit operable to delete said identification information stored in said storage unit and to reset said number of units approved to receive the content when said second decryption key is changed.

10. A method for receiving content in an information processing apparatus from a first apparatus via a first network, said method comprising:

transmitting to the first apparatus a request for permission to receive the content;

performing a first authentication procedure with the first apparatus to obtain a first authentication result;

receiving from the first apparatus a first decryption key for decrypting the content based on said first authentication result;

transmitting the content received from the first apparatus to a second apparatus via a second network;

performing a second authentication procedure with said second apparatus when a request for permission to receive the content is made from said second apparatus, said second authentication procedure producing a second authentication result;

transmitting a second decryption key to said second apparatus based on said second authentication result;

obtaining identification information of said second apparatus based on said second authentication result;

counting a number of units desiring to receive the content based on said identification information;

storing said identification information of said second apparatus; and

controlling a number of units approved to receive the content based on said number of units desiring to receive the content.

11. A recording medium having recorded thereon a program for receiving content in an information processing apparatus from a first apparatus via a first network, said program comprising:

transmitting to the first apparatus a request for permission to receive the content;

performing a first authentication procedure with the first apparatus to obtain a first authentication result;

receiving from the first apparatus a first decryption key for decrypting the content based on said first authentication result;

transmitting the content received from the first apparatus to a second apparatus via a second network;

performing a second authentication procedure with said second apparatus when a request for permission to receive the content is made from said second apparatus, said second authentication procedure producing a second authentication result;

transmitting a second decryption key to said second apparatus based on said second authentication result;

obtaining identification information of said second apparatus based on said second authentication result;

counting a number of units desiring to receive the content based on said identification information;

storing said identification information of said second apparatus; and

controlling a number of units approved to receive the content based on said number of units desiring to receive the content.